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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/694,944	10/24/2000	Naoki Fujii	IPO-P1380	1614

3624 7590 07/15/2003

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EXAMINER

BLACKMAN, ROCHELLE ANN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/694,944

Applicant(s)

FUJII ET AL.

Examiner

Rochelle Blackman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9 and 18-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9,18-28 and 31-41 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 14, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 29 and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawano, U.S. Patent No. 5,028,949.

Kawano discloses "a camera"(see Figs. 1-5); "a photographic lens barrel arranged at one end side of a camera body and projecting in a forward direction from a front body of the camera body"(see 12 of Figs. 1-4); "a grip portion arranged at another end side of the camera body and projecting forward from the front of the camera

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body”(see area under the shutter button in Figs. 1 and 3); “a projecting portion projecting upward a given amount from top of the camera body and adjacent a base portion of the photographing lens barrel”(see 20 in of Figs. 1 and 3); “a ranging unit window fixed on a front of the projecting portion”(see 23 and 24 on the “front” surface of the “projecting portion” 20 in Fig. 1, the “front” of the “projection portion” 20 is considered to be the surface where elements 22, 23, and 24 are located with element 20 in the operating position in Fig. 1); an “electronic flash unit fixed at the front of the projecting portion and arranged above the ranging unit window”(see 22 on the “front” surface of the “projecting portion” 20 and “arranged above” the “ranging unit” 23 and 24 in Fig. 1); and “wherein the ranging unit window and the electronic flash unit are exposed at the front of the projecting portion, the ranging window”(see “ranging unit” 23 and 24 and “electronic flash unit” 22 on the “front” surface of the “projecting portion” 22 in Fig. 1), “the ranging window being positioned between the electronic flash unit and the base of the photographing lens barrel”(see the “ranging window” 23 and 24 “positioned between” the “electronic flash unit” 22 and the “base” 12a of the “photographic lens barrel” 12 in Fig. 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7, 9, 18-27 have been allowed with the reasons set forth in the previous office action.

Claim 28 has been found to be allowable for the same reasons set forth in the previous office action with regards to claims 24, 25, or 26.

Claim 30 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 30 has been found to be allowable because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the limitation involving "a contrast type second focusing means" in combination with the limitations of claim 29.

Claims 31-41 have been found allowable because the prior art of record either alone or in combination neither discloses nor makes obvious the combination of the camera comprising: "a first focusing device", "a second focusing device", "an electronic flash unit", "a ranging unit window", "a contrast type focusing device", a window for a ranging unit", "a movably electronic flash lid", and "a projecting portion", with particular functions and connections among those elements as recited in the above identified claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rochelle Blackman whose telephone number is (703) 308-2879. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russell Adams can be reached on (703) 308-2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.


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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

RB
July 12, 2003


RUSSELL ADAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800